

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 22nd February 1879.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajivī"	Barāhanagar ...	4,000	
2	"Rājshāhye Sambād"	Rājshāhye ...	.....
3	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly ...	200	
4	"Arya Pratibhā"	Bhavanīpore ...	.....
5	"Suhrid"	Calcutta ...	.....
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
6	"Cālnā Prakāsh"	Cālnā ...	.....
7	"Hindu Lalanā"	Nawābgunge, Barrack-pore.	.....
8	"Sahayogī"	Bhavanīpore, Calcutta	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
9	"Banga Hitaishi"	Ditto ditto	.....
10	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh ...	658	13th February 1879.
11	"Bhārat Sanskarak"	Harinābhi ...	.....
12	"Bengal Advertiser"	Ditto ...	.....
13	"Bishva Dūt"	Tāliganj, Calcutta	.....
14	"Bardwān Prachārikā"	Bardwān ...	165	
15	"Bardwān Sanjivani"	Ditto ...	.....
16	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca ...	400	15th ditto.
17	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly ...	1,168	14th ditto.
18	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly ...	200	15th ditto.
19	"Hindu Hitaishini"	Dacca ...	300	15th ditto.
20	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	12th ditto.
21	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Berhampore ...	.....	14th ditto.
22	"Pratikār"	Ditto ...	235	14th ditto.
23	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kākiniā, Rangpore ...	250	
24	"Sādhārani"	Chinsurah ...	516	16th ditto.
25	"Sahachara"	Calcutta ...	.....	17th ditto.
26	"Sambād Bhāskar"	Ditto ...	.....
27	"Sanjivani"	Mymensingh ...	.....	11th ditto.
28	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Calcutta ...	5,500	15th ditto.
29	"Soma Prakāsh"	Bhavanīpore ...	700	15th ditto.
<i>Bi-weekly.</i>				
30	"Banga Mitra"	Calcutta ...	4,000	
<i>Tri-weekly.</i>				
31	"Samāchār Sudhābarshan"	Ditto ...	.....
<i>Daily.</i>				
32	"Sambād Prabhākār"	Ditto ...	550	14th to 20th February 1879.
33	"Sambād Pūrnachandrodaya"	Ditto ...	.....	14th to 21st ditto.
34	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto ...	625	13th to 17th ditto.
35	"Banga Vidya Prakāshikā"	Ditto ...	.....	15th to 19th ditto.
36	"Arya Mihir"	Ditto ...	.....
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
37	"Howrah Hitakari"	Bethar, Howrah ...	300	
38	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore ...	.....	7th February 1879.
39	"Barisāl Vartābāha"	Barisāl ...	300	
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
40	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta ...	400	15th ditto.
URDU.				
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
41	"Akhbār-ul-Akhiār"	Mazufferpore ...	.....
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
42	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna ...	509	19th ditto.
43	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta ...	.....	13th ditto.
44	"Sār Sudhānidhi"	Ditto ...	.....	17th ditto.
PERSIAN.				
45	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto ...	250	14th and 21st February 1879.

POLITICAL.

MURSHIDABAD
PATRIKA,
February 7th, 1879.

THE *Murshidabad Patriká*, of the 7th February, received late in this office, quotes the account given in the *Statesman* of the flogging of an Afghan

Malik by Colonel Browne for his refusing to make saalam to the latter and General Biddulph, and makes the following remarks on the passage :—No one disbelieves the *Englishman*, the *Statesman*, or any other well-known newspaper ; and, consequently, we may regard the following, which appears in the *Statesman*, as true. We believed in it, also because wherever the British first plant their victorious flag and establish their supremacy, there is insult offered to some respectable person for faults truly committed by him or attributed to him. The first act of the British administration in India was not only the insulting of Raja Nanda Kumár, but slaughtering him. The probable cause of this is that Government considers that sort of loyalty necessary which is only an outcome of fear. The reader is again asked to consider what fault the Malik had committed ; he was punished only because he would not fall at the feet of a foreign conqueror.

MURSHIDABAD
PATRIKA.

2. In the course of a long article headed, " What is the fault of the Amir ? " the same paper, after giving a summary of the circumstances that have led up

The Afghan War.

to the present war, and which show the anxiety he had always felt to secure the alliance of the British Government against the chances of an invasion by Russia, and the misrepresentation of his views by Government, remarks :—A consideration of the above shows that there is not the slightest fault on the part of the Amir. Hence it is easily seen that this war is both unnecessary and unjust. Nor is there any foundation for the rumors, which created so much agitation, to the effect that his officers had offered insult to the British Mission. It is needless to say that it is exceedingly reprehensible to judge of an act after having put a tortuous construction upon it, and, on the strength of this decision, to sacrifice hundreds of thousands of human lives and saddle hundreds of millions of a starving people with increased taxes. The writer then proceeds to observe : The voice of the British nation has gone forth that it has no desire to make any more annexations of territory. Secondly, it would not be easy to keep the Afghans in subjection, even if their country were conquered. Thirdly, the Amir cannot, by any course of reasoning, be shown to have committed a fault ; even if one were imputed to him, as a consequence of it, he alone ought to be punished and not the Afghan people deprived of their independence. The punishment he has already undergone, namely, dethronement, humiliation, and exile, should be regarded as sufficient. The time has now come when, forgetting all that has occurred in the past, he should be reinstated, even though as it were, as a puppet on his throne, and thus bound in ties of eternal friendship to the British Government. If this were done, with the exception of India, which has had ever to bear the burdens of others, every body else would be benefited. The Amir would welcome this as a happy change from his present miserable condition, while the British Government would reap the fruit of victory free from anxiety.

MURSHIDABAD
PATRIKA.

3. The same paper contains another short article headed " It is India

India the cause of the British victory in Afghanistan.

which has brought Afghanistan down to the feet of the British." We give it *in extenso* :—India is very happy under the British Government. Through the kindness of the British, there is now in the country plenty of schools, dispensaries, railways, telegraphs, printing presses, and pursuit of education. The Cabulese bring to India wild fruits and bulbs from their country and thither carry back a considerable amount of money. Should the English become masters of their country, there would be light even among their mountains and forests.

There are cankers which are eating up to the core the very life of India. A civilized people only, and certainly not a savage nation like the Afghans, can find this out from her external appearance. Afghanistan will, from its contact with the British, become a country worthy of the name; and the people also seem to desire exchanging their independence for civilization. And hence it is that many of the Afghan sirdars have acknowledged the supremacy of the British Government; and many more now are likely to do so. But the Afghans are not Bengalis or degenerate natives of India; and there is considerable doubt as to their remaining long in a state of subjection.

4. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 13th February, refers to the persistent efforts made by the merchants of Manchester for obtaining the abolition of the cotton

BHARAT MIHIR,
February 13th, 1879.

The cotton duties.

duties, and remarks:—Manchester commands considerable influence in Parliament, and both the Whigs and the Tories equally court its favour. It seems to us probable that sooner or later Manchester will be successful. Now, the first question that suggests itself in this connection is, why is the import duty on Manchester goods proposed to be abolished? Many advocate its abolition because it is opposed to the principles of free trade and international commerce. That it is so opposed admits of no doubt. But are the principles of free trade applicable only to British goods or to other articles also? Manchester is moving heaven and earth on account of the five per cent. duty that is levied on goods in India, but why is an import duty of 25 per cent. imposed on the Indian teas in England? Why are not the principles of free trade applied in this case? Another question is, is the Indian Exchequer in so solvent a state that it can readily forego the revenue obtained from this duty? Notwithstanding the assurances of Lord Cranbrook to the contrary, in the present state of the country, it is neither safe nor proper to diminish the Indian revenues by one hundred and seventy lakhs of rupees. How much money is actually kept or is likely to be kept as a reserve fund in the Indian Treasury, Lord Northbrook (*sic*) and Lord Cranbrook can alone tell; but God only knows how we manage to make both ends meet. With starvation our bodies have become emaciated; the burden of taxation has caused our heads to stoop down. If the import duty on piece-goods were abolished, how would the Government of India recoup itself for the loss of revenue thus occasioned unless it were by means of a new tax? But what other tax in this country would so easily bring in a crore of rupees? Many are not probably aware that an import duty on cloth does exist: even those that are aware of the fact do not feel the duty as a burden. We do not know whether there can be any other tax in India so free from harassment and oppression. Many are of opinion that this duty is levied for the purpose of protecting the cloth mills of Bombay; but that is not the fact. The duty has continued to be so levied from a time when there were no cloth mills in that Presidency. Even if it had been imposed for the purpose referred to, we do not see that it would have been altogether wrong. Through the eager competition of English merchants all indigenous industries are about to be ruined. Food and clothing are the two chief necessities of life. The British merchants have not been able to deprive the natives of India of their food, for that food does not grow in England; but they have ruined the Indian weavers. In an auspicious moment did Lord Dalhousie take possession of the Berars, which produce cotton in abundance. This article has given life to Manchester; it saved the mill owners of that city at a time when American cotton was selling at a fancy price. The abolition of this 5 per cent. import duty, while causing an enormous loss to the Indian Exchequer, will not materially affect the price of

the piece-goods; and any attempt to bring it about and make up for the lost revenue by the imposition of a new tax will only increase our sufferings.

SADHARANI,
February 16th, 1879.

The cotton duties.

SOMA PRAKASH,
February 17th, 1879.

6. The *Soma Prakásh*,
The Zulu War.

5. On the same subject, the *Sádháraní*, of the 16th February, makes similar observations. The *Soma Prakásh*, of the 17th February, devotes a long article to the subject of the disaster which has befallen English arms in Natal. The writer denies

that the Zulus were the aggressors in the present war, which has been brought about solely through the discourtesy of the Colonial Government. It is not at all likely that a weak power should voluntarily seek a quarrel with a stronger one, although it is but natural that the infliction of constant stripes upon it will make even the mildest creature to resent them. The English are the aggressors in this case, and have wronged the Zulus. It is exceedingly to be regretted that the powerful and prosperous British nation, not content with their position, are ever seeking to possess themselves of the huts of barbarians. This Zulu war and the Afghan war and the Russo-Turkish and the Franco-German wars all show that there is practically but little difference between a barbarian and a civilized person, between a tiger and a sovereign. In their vindictiveness, anger, love of conquest, and of human blood both are alike. The result of this war will be the certain extermination of the Zulus, a people who have never given any offence to the British Government. It is idle to boast of civilization and the influence of Christianity. Christianity has no power over sovereigns. The quarrel with the Zulus has been brought about by the British themselves, and the former have only acted in self-defence; and for this they are to be exterminated. The Editor concludes by deprecating the exercise of brute force, and extolling the power which righteousness alone confers upon a nation.

SAHACHAR,
February 17th, 1879.

7. In an article on the Afghan war, the *Sahachar*, of the 17th February, reproduces the observations made by the *Sádháraní* on the same subject.*

BHARAT MITRA,
February 13th, 1879.

8. The *Bhárat Mitra*, of the 13th February, protests against the abolition of the import duties on Manchester goods, which is said to be in contemplation.

His observations are almost identical with those made by the *Bhárat Mihir*.†

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

BHARAT MIHIR,
February 13th, 1879.

9. The *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 13th February, contains an editorial headed "How will the proceeds of the License Tax be used?" The time has now come when, on behalf of the country, we

should ask Lord Lytton this question. The decision of Parliament and the friendship of the Secretary of State for Manchester have filled our minds with apprehensions; and it is because we are frightened, mortified, and disappointed, that on behalf of this miserable and poverty-stricken country we ask His Excellency this question. It is not likely that the feeble voice of this journal will reach the august presence of the Viceroy, but the memory of the fact that we did ask such a question will make us happy ever afterwards. Lord Cranbrook seems to be even more friendly towards Manchester than his predecessor in office. It is likely that the import duty on cotton goods will be abolished shortly. On the other hand, the enormous costs of the Afghan war, which has not yet ended, have been thrown upon India. To make both ends meet, it is probable that an income tax will be

* See paragraph 2 of our last Report.

† See paragraph 4.

introduced. But we do not know with what heart Lord Lytton will be able to impose another tax upon this impoverished and famine-stricken people. How much will the income tax produce? Unless it were determined to suck dry the last drop of the blood of the people, the proceeds of this tax alone would never suffice to pay the expenses of the Afghan war, and make up for the revenue lost by the abolition of the import duties on Manchester piece-goods. These considerations have made us anxious about the use that will be made of the License Tax Fund. This tax is now bringing in more than was anticipated. Will Lord Lytton really divert the proceeds to other purposes than those of famine relief? His Excellency should remember the solemn promise given by himself and Sir John Strachey in this matter. It behoves His Excellency to maintain the greatness of the Government of India at this time when it is passing through a financial crisis.

10. Adverting to the provision in the Rent Bill which has reference to the deposit by a tenant of his rents in the collectorate, instead of, as now, in the Moonsif Courts, the same paper repeats his own observations on the subject.*

The Rent Bill.

BEHARAT MIHIE,
February 13th, 1879.

11. In an article on the Arms' Act, the *Education Gazette*, of the 14th February, reproduces the observations made by the *Soma Prakásh* on the same subject.†

The Arms' Act.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
February 14th, 1879.

12. The *Grámvartá Prakáshiká*, of the 15th February, resumes the subject of the condition of the Gorai river, on whose continued existence the prosperity of the cities and villages on both banks of it is mainly dependent. To the existence of this river is due the flourishing state of trade between Backergunge and other districts of Eastern Bengal and the districts comprised in the western portion of this province. Considering the expense which must be incurred for such a purpose, any attempt to divert this traffic to the channel of the Pudma would not return any profit, while Kooshtea, Kumarkhali, and other trade centres on the banks of the Gorai would be shorn of half their prosperity. Almost the whole of the traffic of Eastern Bengal is borne by this river. The silting up of the channel of the Gorai will also cause a general unhealthiness in the localities below which it flows. The insalubrity of the tract of country known as the Bádá in Jessore, and of many places in the Dinagepore district, has been brought about through the operation of similar causes. On all these considerations, Government is asked to adopt measures for keeping on the flow of water in the channel of the Gorai by setting free the mouth of the Pudma whence it takes its rise. It appears from the course which the Pudma is gradually taking, that it will again flow below Talberia and other villages near Kooshtea; and if, at this point, a mouth could be opened up and a junction effected between the Pudma and the Gorai, there would not be any lack of water in the latter.

The condition of the Gorai River.

GRAMVARTA
PRAKASHIKA,
February 15th, 1879.

13. The same paper refers, in a long article, to the high prices of food-grains and fuel at the present time, and the distress that consequently prevails among the poor. The writer takes the occasion to expatiate upon the advantages which the rich enjoy, and which never fall to the lot of the less fortunate. Even legislation and measures of taxation are, in practice, favourable to the wealthy, who also enjoy an immunity from oppressions. Regret is expressed that the repeated representations made by this unpretending paper, on behalf of the poor, are not attended to by the authorities.

Distress at the present time.

GRAMVARTA
PRAKASHIKA.

* See paragraph 7 of our Report of the 1st February 1879.

† See paragraph 15 of our last Report.

GRANVARTA
PRAKASHIKA,
February 15th, 1879.

The Rent Bill.

14. In a letter to the same paper purporting to have been written by three Mahomedan ryots, and which is published without any additions and alterations, the writers express their conviction that the Rent Bill, if passed into law, will be greatly beneficial to the agricultural and middle class tenants, and offers the following observations upon it—(1). The zemindars have, by using various means, extinguished the rights of the tenantry; and the rent rates, that now prevail, are very high. It is not, therefore, likely that the conferring of occupancy rights, with these rates in force, even if the settlement be a permanent one, will be greatly beneficial. The indifference hitherto manifested by Government in connection with this subject has made the condition of the country and the tenantry in particular really deplorable. (2). Having been informed beforehand of the nature of the provision relating to occupancy rights, and in order to make it impossible for the tenant to prove their existence in his case, the zemindars have repeatedly made fresh settlements and renewals of leases. The tenantry will not, therefore, be able, in all cases, to prove the existence of occupancy rights in their favour. Many there are among them who do not consider it necessary to preserve the leases and receipts given by the zemindar; while in the case of others, who think otherwise, they are either lost or get destroyed by fire. We would therefore ask the district officers to enquire privately into these matters and then to fix the rent rates and determine occupancy rights. (3). It behoves Government also to enquire into those cases in which ryots possessed of occupancy or mourasee rights are yet ejected by force from their holdings, but who are constrained to remain silent from considerations of the expense which litigation requires, and their inability to properly conduct it.

HINDU HITAISHINI,
February 15th, 1879.

The Rent Bill.

15. The *Hindu Hitaishini*, of the 15th February, prefaces his observations on the Rent Bill by referring to the improvement that has of late years taken place in the condition of the tenantry, and the constant ignoring, nay, misrepresentations, of this fact by their advocates. The writer further recognizes the need of a law for affording facilities to the zemindar for recovering the arrears of rents, in view of the liabilities thrown upon them by the introduction of the Road and the Public Works cesses. Instead of however, proving a benefit to both landlords and tenants, as is intended by the framers, the present Bill, if passed into law, will in practice be injurious to the interests of both. As there is yet time to make amendments, the following suggestions are offered for the consideration of the authorities:—The summary procedure laid down will only lead to an increase of litigation and ill-feeling between the parties. Each will seek to overreach the other. Most of the officers presiding over civil courts will not be able to determine whether the ryot has a reasonable defence to make; but will, nevertheless, permit him to make one. The zemindar, on the contrary, will not fail to take advantage of every means that may be in his favour for the purpose of harassing the ryot. Then, again, the provisions relating to securities to be offered by the latter, and those relating to the execution of decrees, have all a tendency to stimulate litigation, and subject the parties to increased expense, in the shape of court fees, and to inconvenience and trouble.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
February 15th, 1879.

The Irrigation Cess in Behar.

16. The *Sulabha Samachar*, of the 15th February, dwells upon the poverty of the tenantry in Behar, the oppressions committed on them by the zemindars, and the hardships occasioned by the Road Cess and the license tax. The agricultural classes are exceedingly harassed. An additional hardship is being caused to them by the procedure of Government in connection with

the canals, and by the levy of the Irrigation Cess. In a short time they will be compelled to use the canal water for purposes of agriculture. While not altogether denying the advantage of irrigation by this means, we are of opinion that the advantage obtained is not commensurate with the outlay incurred. On many occasions the ryots, while paying for the water, do not obtain it, Government not being able to supply it. So that these canals, instead of proving a means of preventing the occurrence of famines, have become an instrument for the harassment of the ryots. Then, again, on the plea of making a waste of the water, they are constantly fined. The patrols, whose business it is to ascertain whether there has been any waste, often abuse their power and take illegal gratifications.

17. In an article on the Arms' Act, the *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 16th February, reproduces the observations made on the same subject by the *Soma Prakásh* and the *Sahachar*.*

DACCA PRAKASH,
February 16th, 1879.

The Arms' Act.

18. The same paper in referring to the assessments under the License Tax Act, makes the same remarks as those noticed in paragraph 6 of the Weekly Report of the 25th ultimo.

DACCA PRAKASH.

The License Tax.

19. The *Sadharani*, of the 16th February, institutes a comparison between the B.L. Examination of the Calcutta University and the Committee Examinations in law. Although the candidates for both have to study an equal number of law books, the test imposed in the latter case is in practice more difficult than in the former, owing to the system of oral examinations that obtain, and the small time allowed for them. The chances of failure are, therefore, more numerous. In the matter of the number of marks also, which a candidate must obtain before he could be declared as passed, the Committee Examination has been made more difficult than the B.L.

SADHARANI,
February 16th, 1879.

The B. L. vs. the Committee Examination.

20. The *Soma Prakásh*, of the 17th February, gives a summary of the memorial made by the Landholders' Association in Behar on the Rent Bill now before the Bengal Council, and fully agrees with the sentiments therein expressed. In the estimation of the writer, the memorialists have categorically considered the provisions of the Bill, and succeeded in showing that the measure will be beneficial neither to the landlord nor the tenant. One great objection to it, in short, is to be found in the circumstance that those for whose benefit it is intended are opposed to it. They are not children that they will not understand what is meant for their good. The measure will lead to an increase of litigation and ill-feeling between landlords and tenants. The former will now seek to prevent the growth of occupancy rights by constantly changing their tenants and not allowing a holding to remain long in the possession of any one tenant. Sir Ashley Eden is, in conclusion, asked not to pass the Bill in haste.

SOMA PRAKASH,
February 17th, 1879.

The Rent Bill.

21. Adverting to the resolution recorded by the Government of India on Dr. Woodford's case, the *Sahachar*, of the 17th February, observes as follows:—

SAHACHAR,
February 17th, 1879.

Dr. Woodford's case.

Dr. Woodford will now have no reason to complain. He was, in the first instance, condemned by a number of medical officers and a Judge like Mr. O'Kinealy. Not to speak of the impartiality of the Government of India, Sir Ashley Eden is not a man to do an act of injustice. We are sorry for Dr. Woodford, but the mismanagement under his administration

* See paragraphs 15 and 18 of our last Report.

of the Campbell Hospital was such that no other alternative was left to the Government than what it has actually adopted.

SANACHAR,
February 17th, 1879.

22. The same paper contains an article headed "Government Savings Banks and Annuities," in the course of which it advocates the establishment of Savings Banks in different parts of the country. If this were done, people possessed of small means, who find it difficult to lay by anything, would be greatly benefited. If the system of annuities is suited to the requirements of any people, it is suited to the people of India. Owing to the operation of the peculiar laws of inheritance, a family cannot remain wealthy even for three generations together in this country; and yet the members are expected to keep up their ancient prestige. Debt and other pecuniary embarrassments are thus brought about. Cases are not rare in which even the homestead of the family has had to be sold to meet the demands of the creditors. This circumstance coupled with the heavy taxation which obtains, and the prevalence of high prices, have impoverished the people. A system of annuities, if introduced, would be a real boon to the natives of this country, and would possess considerable political value.

SAR SUDHANIDHI,
February 17th, 1879.

23. The *Sar Sudhánidhi*, of the 17th February, reproduces the sentiments expressed by the *Soma Prakásh* in its article on the Arms' Act.*

The Arms' Act.

EDUCATION.

SANJIVANI,
February 11th, 1879.

24. The *Sanjivani*, of the 11th February, thus refers to the scheme recently sanctioned of grading the subordinate officers of the Bengal Education Department:—The introduction of grades among the subordinate officers of the Education Department has given general satisfaction; the more so, because of the indifference with which this branch of the public service had been hitherto regarded by Government. Those, however, who had been so long eagerly and anxiously expecting to be admitted into the grades, do not, now that they have obtained the privilege, find themselves able to share in this feeling. On the contrary, the principles on which the officers have been graded have disappointed many and filled their minds with apprehensions. With the exception of two or three men, none of them will for the present receive any increase of salary; nor are their prospects in future sure and good. Under the new arrangement, many will not have any prospects of advancement. The old system was a better one in this respect. We do not again consider it likely that one effect of the scheme now sanctioned will be to attract competent men possessed of University degrees to the Educational service, for notwithstanding the assurance of Government that competent men, although new, may be at once appointed to one of the higher grades, in practice, this will not be without serious difficulty. It would be practically impossible in most cases, if the interests of justice were consulted. The measure has been of advantage to only a favoured few, and to some two or three others who had never any chance of receiving an increase. Many competent officers, on the contrary, have been injured and disappointed. Formerly the promotion or degradation of a teacher mainly depended on the efficiency or the decline of the school under his charge. This will not be the case any longer; while the doors of advancement being as much closed to them as the door of heaven, it is probable that the instructing staff will grow remiss in their duties. There is no prospect for those who have not obtained admission into the grades. The more deeply, therefore, that we reflect on the scheme, the more do its worthlessness and

* See paragraph 15 of our last Report.

insincerity appear. It behoves those that are expressing their gratification at the measure to consider the points referred to above. The unsatisfactory character of the scheme is wholly due to the fact that the number of appointments in each grade is very small. Most of the officers are placed in a grade which is lower than that which they ought to be placed in. The Editor concludes by saying that the scheme is not likely to prove beneficial so long as the number of appointments does not correspond with the number of persons worthy of such appointment.

25. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 13th February, is thankful to Mr.

BHARAT MIHIR,
February 13th, 1879.

Scholarships for native females.

Croft and the Lieutenant-Governor, the one for sanctioning, and the other for proposing the establishment of scholarships for native females who should be able to distinguish themselves in the University Examinations; and for their conferring a scholarship upon, and making a present to Miss Kādamvinī Basu, who has so distinguished herself. This act of liberality and encouragement to the cause of female education will open a new and extensive field for the aspirations of the native females. It is, however, to be regretted that there does not exist any suitable school where they can prosecute their studies. But now that the want has been felt, means will doubtless be used to supply it.

LOCAL.

26. The *Sanjivani*, of the 11th February, has the following in its columns of news:—Complaints of the poor

SANJIVANI,
February 11th, 1879.

The License Tax.

against the inequitable assessments under the License Tax Act reach us from all sides. One day, an old man, a Mahomedan, who sells milk, told us, crying, that he had only four or five cows which gave him about five to six seers of milk, and that that was his only means of livelihood. The assessor Baboo had assessed him with a tax of Rs. 5. Mathurākānta Madak, a trader, writes to us from Narinda, a village in Tangail, saying that protests were entered against the assessments made in that part of the country by Tārak Babu. The latter was the person who was to have heard them, but the dates of hearing were repeatedly changed; and so many have given up their idea of making any protest. They have already spent Rs. 10 to 12 for this purpose. Owing to the presence of famine, the tax, and the utter destruction of the mustard and khesari crops by the insect named *mendā*, considerable distress prevails among the agricultural and trading classes.

27. A correspondent of the same paper observes that the Excise

SANJIVANI.

The evils of the outstill system.

Department has ever been a standing disgrace of the Government; it was hoped that this would be removed. The evil is, however, on the increase. By the introduction of the outstill system, the country is about to be ruined. There is a distillery at Kandiurā; but another has been set up at Kātihāli, thus offering a stimulus to the use of spirituous liquors.

28. A correspondent of the *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 13th February,

BHARAT MIHIR,
February 13th, 1879.

The License Tax.

writing from Tangail, thus refers to the license tax assessments in that place:—The hardship of the people occasioned by this tax knows no bounds. A father and son live together, yet both have been severally assessed with the tax. The other day we saw a blind man who had come to protest against the assessment with the tax of his brother, who had long been dead. Another day, a weaver's wife, who supports herself and her infirm husband by husking paddy and doing sundry work for others, began to cry as she spoke of making a protest. It is perfectly clear from all this that the circle officers did not go to every village and see the condition of the people with

their own eyes, but made assessments of ten villages while they remained in one. We have heard how this work has been performed in Dacca, Jessore, Serajgunge, Kishorgunge, and other places, but nowhere have the assessments been so unfair and inequitable as in Tangail.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
February 14th, 1879.

29. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette*, of the 14th February, is exceedingly thankful to the Lieutenant-Governor for proposing the construction of a railway from Memari to Santipore, and descants on the advantages which, if the project be carried out, will follow. First, for lack of a railway communication the inhabitants have to buy articles at very high prices; secondly, the Memari station is resorted to by people from a distance of about 20 to 25 miles; and the inconvenience they are put to in accomplishing this distance may be easily imagined. They also find great difficulty in going to Burdwan and other places; and yet if they cannot reach their place of destination at the appointed time, they are put to loss. Now that a railway is about to be constructed, the writer respectfully beseeches His Honor to attend to the grievances of the people living in these parts. They would be greatly benefited if the projected line passed by the villages of Bohar and Belgachia to Culna. The railway, should it become an accomplished fact, would attract a considerable amount of traffic.

EDUCATION GAZETTE.

30. Another, writing to the same paper from Rayna, asks Government to transfer the Rayna thana to the jurisdiction of the Sudder Moonshee of the Burdwan district. Burdwan is, so to speak, at their doors, but they are at present obliged to go to Jehanabad, a distance of about 25 miles, to institute their suits. This anomaly and cause of inconvenience should be promptly removed.

The transfer of the Rayna thana to Burdwan Sudder Moonshee proposed.

SADHARANI,
February 16th, 1879.

31. A correspondent of the *Sádháraní*, of the 16th February, while pointing out the hardship occasioned to the people by the operation of the license tax in these times of high prices and pestilences, and when a number of cesses are levied from them, notices with commendation the services of Baboo Dwarkanath Neyogi, who was entrusted with the work of making assessments in the villages under the Chanditola thana. He has performed his duty with industry, discretion, and justice, and has thus earned great popularity. Associated with him in this work, and without whose able and disinterested co-operation it could never have been so satisfactorily accomplished, was Dr. Rájkrishna Chakravartí of Janay, a generous and loyally disposed gentleman, who spared no pains to facilitate the work of assessment.

The License Tax in the Hooghly district.

SOMA PRAKASH,
February 17th, 1879.

32. A correspondent of the *Soma Prakásh*, of the 17th February, writing from Khamargachi, in the Hooghly district, says that, although the assessments under the License Tax Act, originally made in that village and adjacent localities, were in many cases open to objection, the inhabitants have had justice done to them by Mr. R. D. Hime, the Magistrate, during his late tour in the mofussil. After enquiries made in person into their true condition, many have been exempted from the operation of the tax. The license tax would not have occasioned so much hardship if all Magistrates had acted similarly.

The License Tax.

SOMA PRAKASH.

The same writer asks Government, in reference to the projected railway from Memari to Culna, to make a terminus at Hooghly, instead of at Memari, and suggests that the line should run along the banks of the Hooghly, up to Culna or Cutwa. A large amount of traffic would be obtained if this were done.

The Memari and Santipore railway.

Failing this, the correspondent would ask that the existing road from Tri-
veni, *viâ* Balagor to Culna, should be made *pucca*.

33. Another, writing to the same paper, directs the attention of the
police authorities to the use of short weights
and other fraudulent practices on the part of
the vendors of edible vegetables and fish in
Calcutta. They are mostly to be found in the Nutan Bazar, the Posta,
Madhav Baboo's Bazar, and the Simla Bazar, and might be easily detected,
if only the police would try to do so by appearing in disguise.

SOM PRAKASH,
February 17th, 1879.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 22nd February 1879.

